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Training and research

Report of the Second Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Training and research" (see A/C.2/56/1).

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 30th, 33rd and 40th meetings, on 21 and 28 November and 12 December 2001. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.30, 33 and 40). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 1 to 3 October (see A/C.2/56/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/56/615).

4. At the 30th meeting, on 21 November, introductory statements were made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management (see A/C.2/56/SR.30).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.30 and A/C.2/56/L.68

5. At the 33rd meeting, on 28 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/56/L.30), which read:

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"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 50/121 of 20 December 1995, 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997, 53/195 of 15 December 1998, 54/229 of 22 December 1999 and 55/208 of 20 December 2000,

"*Taking note* of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,

"*Welcoming* the recent progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

"*Expressing its appreciation* to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

"*Noting with concern* that while the participation of the developed countries in training programmes in New York and Geneva is increasing, their contributions to the General Fund of the Institute have not increased,

"*Noting* that the bulk of the resources contributed to the Institute are directed to the Special Purpose Grants Fund rather than to the General Fund, and stressing the need to address that unbalanced situation,

"*Noting also* that the Institute receives no subsidy from the United Nations regular budget, that it provides training programmes to all Member States free of charge and that similar United Nations institutions based at Geneva are not charged rent or maintenance costs,

"*Welcoming* the decisions taken by the Secretary-General to ensure continuity in the management of the Institute and to establish the proper grade for the post of Executive Director with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

"*Reiterating* that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

"1. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated, United Nations system-wide approach to research and training based on an effective coherent strategy and an effective division of labour among the relevant institutions and bodies;

"2. *Also reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States and the relevance of training-related research activities undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

"3. *Stresses* the need for the Institute to strengthen further its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;

"4. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, and, in this context, underlines the need

to develop further and to expand the scope of these partnerships, in particular at the country level;

"5. *Requests* the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to continue to ensure fair geographical distribution and transparency in the preparation of the programmes and in the employment of experts, and, in this regard, stresses that the courses of the Institute should focus on development issues, particularly on trade;

"6. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute, to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

"7. *Calls upon* developed countries, which are increasingly participating in the training programmes conducted in New York and Geneva, to make contributions or consider increasing their contributions to the General Fund;

"8. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue its efforts to resolve the critical financial situation of the Institute, in particular with a view to broadening its donor base and increasing the contributions made to the General Fund;

"9. *Also encourages* the Board of Trustees to consider diversifying further the venues of the events organized by the Institute and to include the cities hosting regional commissions, in order to promote greater participation and reduce costs;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Institute and United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to explore ways and means of systematically utilizing the Institute in the execution of training and capacity-building programmes for the economic and social development of developing countries;

"11. *Decides*, in relation to its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, to reclassify the rental rates and maintenance costs charged to the Institute with a view to alleviating its current financial difficulties, which are aggravated by the current practice of charging commercial rates, taking into account that other organizations affiliated with the United Nations enjoy such privileges;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in furtherance of the decision made in paragraph 11 above, to amend article VIII, paragraph 13, of the statute of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research accordingly;

"13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the impact of restructuring and revitalization on the efficiency of the Institute as well as further details on the status of contributions to and the financial situation of the Institute."

6. At the 40th meeting, on 12 December, the Committee had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.30, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/56/L.55).

7. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Felix Mbayu (Cameroon) introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/56/L.68), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.30.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the statement of programme budget implications, as contained in document A/C.2/56/L.55, did not apply to draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.68. The Secretary of the Committee then read out a statement of programme budget implications pertaining to draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.68 (see A/C.2/56/SR.40).

9. Also at its 40th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.68 (see para. 11).

10. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.68, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.30 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/121 of 20 December 1995, 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997, 53/195 of 15 December 1998, 54/229 of 22 December 1999 and 55/208 of 20 December 2000,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Welcoming the recent progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

Noting that contributions to the General Fund have not increased and that the participation of the developed countries in training programmes in New York and Geneva is increasing,

Noting also that the bulk of the resources contributed to the Institute are directed to the Special Purpose Grants Fund rather than to the General Fund, and stressing the need to address that unbalanced situation,

[1] A/56/615.

Noting further that the Institute receives no subsidy from the United Nations regular budget, that it provides training programmes to all Member States free of charge and that similar United Nations institutions based at Geneva are not charged rent or maintenance costs,

Welcoming the decisions taken by the Secretary-General to ensure continuity in the management of the Institute and to establish the proper grade for the post of Executive Director with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Reiterating that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated, United Nations system-wide approach to research and training based on an effective coherent strategy and an effective division of labour among the relevant institutions and bodies;

2. *Also reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States and the relevance of training-related research activities undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

3. *Stresses* the need for the Institute to strengthen further its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;

4. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, and, in this context, underlines the need to develop further and to expand the scope of these partnerships, in particular at the country level;

5. *Requests* the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to continue to ensure fair geographical distribution and transparency in the preparation of the programmes and in the employment of experts, and, in this regard, stresses that the courses of the Institute should focus primarily on development issues;

6. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

7. *Calls upon* developed countries, which are increasingly participating in the training programmes conducted in New York and Geneva, to make contributions or consider increasing their contributions to the General Fund;

8. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue its efforts to resolve the critical financial situation of the Institute, in particular with a view to broadening its donor base and increasing the contributions made to the General Fund;

9. *Also encourages* the Board of Trustees to consider diversifying further the venues of the events organized by the Institute and to include the cities hosting regional commissions, in order to promote greater participation and reduce costs;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Institute and United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to explore ways and means of systematically utilizing the Institute in the execution of training and capacity-building programmes for the economic and social development of developing countries;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to clarify the reason why the Institute does not benefit from rental rates and maintenance costs similar to those enjoyed by other United Nations-affiliated organizations, such as the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, and also requests the Secretary-General to submit proposals on how to waive or reduce the rental rates and maintenance costs charged to the Institute with a view to alleviating its current financial difficulties, which are aggravated by the current practice of charging commercial rates;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, including details on the status of contributions to, and the financial situation of, the Institute, as well as on the use of its services by Member States.